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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 6 (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn) An adjusting method for endoscope systems comprising:

a comparing step of comparing video signals, which are produced from light rays that are reflected from an object and whose wavelengths fall within first, second, and third ranges, with one another;

a lamp current regulating step of regulating a lamp current, which flows into each of light source lamps that emit light rays whose wavelengths fall within first, second, and third ranges, according to the result of the comparing step; and

a storing step of storing the lamp current regulated at the lamp current regulating step.

8. (Withdrawn) An adjusting method for endoscope systems comprising:

a brightness determination step of determining whether an amount of light reflected from an object is associated with a predetermined brightness level;

a light limiting level determination step of when it is determined at the brightness determination step that the amount of reflected light is associated with the predetermined brightness level, determining whether a diaphragm is set to a predetermined light limiting level; and

a setting step of setting the light limiting level to the predetermined level according to the result of the determination made at the light limiting level determination step.

9. (Withdrawn) An adjusting method for endoscope systems according to Claim 8, wherein at the setting step, when the light limiting level is set to the predetermined level according to the result of the determination made at the light limiting level determination step, the elapse of a predetermined time is waited.

10. (Withdrawn) An adjusting method for endoscope systems according to Claim 9, wherein at the setting step, after the elapse of the predetermined time is waited, it is determined whether the light limiting level is set to the predetermined level.

11. (Withdrawn) An adjusting method for endoscope systems according to Claim 9, wherein at the setting step, after the elapse of the predetermined time is waited, when it is determined that the light limiting level is not set to the predetermined level, a warning is given.

Claims 12 – 22 (Canceled)

23. (New) An adjusting method for an endoscope system, comprising:

a detection step of detecting, in order to adjust white balance of illumination light rays, an image signal for each of first, second and third ranges of wavelengths reflected from a subject, correspondingly to irradiations of first, second and third illumination light rays, respectively;

a first step of comparing a ratio of peak values of first and second image signals with a reference value;

a second step of adjusting light amounts of the first and second illumination light rays, correspondingly to a result of the first step;

a third step of determining whether or not a ratio of peak values of the second and third image signals is within a first setting range, correspondingly to a result of the second step; and

a fourth step of readjusting the light amounts of the first and second illumination light rays, correspondingly to a result of the third step.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the second step comprises:

when a determination result of the first step is smaller than the reference value, adjusting the light amount of the second illumination light ray so that the ratio of the peak values of the first and second image signals is within a second setting range; and

when a determination result of the first step is larger than the reference value, adjusting the light amount of the first illumination light ray so that the ratio of the peak values of the first and second image signals is within a second setting range.

25. (New) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the fourth step comprises:

when a determination result of the third step is out of the first setting range, adjusting the light amount of the second illumination light ray so that the ratio of the peak values of the second and third image signals is within the first setting range.

26. (New) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the fourth step further comprises:

when a peak value of the second illumination light is readjusted, determining whether or not a ratio of peak values of the first image signal and the second image signal after the readjustment is within the second setting range; and

when the ratio is out of the second setting range, adjusting the light amount of the first illumination light ray so that the ratio of the peak values of the first and second image signals is within the second setting range.

27. (New) The method according to Claim 25, further comprising:

an automatic adjustment starting step of reading a sequence for performing an automatic adjustment operation for automatically performing the first to fourth steps, after the detection step; and

an automatic adjustment ending step of recording an adjustment result and ending the automatic adjustment operation, after the fourth step.

28. (New) The method according to Claim 23, wherein in the second and fourth steps, the light amounts of the first and second illumination light rays are adjusted by adjusting a duty of a pulse current outputted to a light source lamp.

29. (New) The method according to Claim 23, further comprising after the fourth step:

a diaphragm adjusting step of adjusting a diaphragm that controls an amount of light irradiated from a light source lamp.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the first, second and third image signals are RGB signals that correspond to red, green and blue signals, respectively.

31. (New) An endoscope system, comprising:

a light source lamp of emitting illumination light rays;

an optical filter of switching the illumination light rays emitted by the light source lamp into field sequential illumination lights having first, second and third wavelengths, respectively;

an image capturing device of capturing an image of a subject illuminated by the field sequential illumination lights and outputting first, second and third color signals corresponding to a captured image;

a control portion of controlling operations of an adjustment portion based on the first, second and third color signals, thereby performing an operation of adjusting white balance of the field sequential illumination lights, the adjustment portion including:

a detection portion of detecting, in order to adjust white balance of illumination light rays, an image signal for each of first, second and third ranges of wavelengths reflected from a subject, correspondingly irradiations of first, second and third illumination light rays, respectively;

a comparison portion of comparing a ratio of peak values of first and second image signals with a reference value;

a light amount adjustment portion of adjusting light amounts of the first and second illumination light rays, correspondingly to a result of comparison by the comparison portion;

a determination portion of determining whether or not a ratio of peak values of the second and a third image signals is within a first setting range, correspondingly to a result of adjustment by the light amount adjustment portion; and

a light amount readjustment portion of readjusting the light amounts of the first and second illumination light rays, correspondingly to a result of determination by the determination portion;

an adjustment instructing portion of making the control portion execute the white balance adjusting operation; and

a recording portion of recording a result of the white balance adjustment by the control portion.